

May 16, 2016

Greetings Utah Prairie Dog Surveyors,

You are receiving this email because you have been accepted to attend the upcoming **2016 Utah Prairie Dog Surveyor Training in Cedar City, UT, on June 7th and 8th**. If you are no longer planning to attend this training, please inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office **as soon as possible** (contact details listed below). The class is currently closed for registration and we are at maximum capacity for the amount of students we can accept. If there are any cancellations, this will potentially allow others to join the class.

The training includes a classroom session on Tuesday June 7th (starting at 10:00am), and a field session on Wednesday June 8th (starting at 7:30am). **All class participants will attend both the classroom session and the field session.** A course agenda is attached to this email.

For the field session day (June 8th), we will break into approximately 4 groups and travel with our groups to several separate Utah prairie dog sites during the day. For ease of carpooling/caravanning, we will try to arrange the groups to enable folks from the same company/agency and/or folks who will be returning to Cedar City or Salt Lake City or other destinations to remain together. We will likely need to re-arrange this slightly once we all convene as a class (group details to be provided in class). We want to limit the amount of vehicles we take into these field sites as much as possible. **Due to the travel conditions at some of these sites, we recommend driving 4x4, high-clearance vehicles for the field session day.**

Classroom Session- Tuesday June 7th

The classroom session will begin at 10:00am and finish around 5:00pm, with a lunch break. **The classroom session will be held at Southern Utah University, 351 W. University Blvd., Cedar City, UT, 84720.** Our classroom is located in the Science Center (building 41- see map attached to this email), Room #129. Parking is free, as classes are over for the semester. The classroom session includes a written test which will be administered at the end of class that day.

Field Session- Wednesday June 8th

We will meet at 7:30am (meet up location will be determined and explained in class). You should plan on at least a 10-hour day, including driving time and attendance at all sites. **Please arrive in your vehicles with full tanks of gas, all supplies you need for the day, and be prepared to carpool with others in your assigned group.**

The field sessions will involve a combination of walking and driving. There will be approximately 4 groups that will visit several separate sites. Each group will start by either visiting sites in the Cedar City area (West Desert Recovery Unit) or start closer to Bryce Canyon (Paunsaugunt Recovery Unit). The groups will then rotate around so all groups have the opportunity to visit all sites. There will be a different field instructor to

train you at each site. Each group will also have a “group leader” and maps/directions to guide them to each site throughout the day. Please be prepared for any weather conditions and bring: binoculars, field clothes/boots/hats, sunscreen, and food/water for yourself. **There will likely not be enough time to stop for lunch, so please bring your own sack lunch and enough snacks/beverages to get you through the entire day.**

General Info

We are in the process of updating our website with the 2016 training material. The website will be fully updated prior to the training. You can view the website at <http://www.fws.gov/utahfieldoffice/surveyor.php>.

On the website you will find pertinent course information including: the agenda, the 2014 survey protocol and data sheet, the 2016 survey intensity map, the class presentations (powerpoints), and other related documents and links. You may download and print any information you would like to have along with you at the training. Hard-copies of the 2014 survey protocol will be provided for everyone at the training (attached to this email).

For information on lodging, etc. in the Cedar City area, go to:
<http://scenicsouthernutah.com/cedar-city/>

If you need to cancel or change your registration information, please contact Ritamay Reyna at ritamay_reyna@fws.gov or at (801)975-3330 x122.

If you have additional more detailed training-specific questions, please contact Kate Novak at kate_novak@fws.gov or at (801)975-3330 x132.

Thank you for your interest in surveying for Utah prairie dogs! We look forward to seeing you all in June.

Sincerely,
Kate Novak

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*****The course agenda, survey protocol, and map of the training location are attached.***